



**CITY OF SANTA BARBARA  
CREEKS RESTORATION/WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT  
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**SPECIAL MEETING**

**May 12, 2010**

**Casa Las Palmas, 323 E. Cabrillo Boulevard**

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Moldaver called the meeting to order at 6:10pm.

**ROLL CALL**

Committee members present: Chair Moldaver, Paul Bullock, Betsy Weber, Daniel Wilson

Committee members absent: Natasha Lohmus

Liaison members present: None

Liaison members absent: Councilmember Michael Self, Planning Commissioner Michael Jordan

Staff present: Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager Cameron Benson, Creeks Division Program Assistant Julie Kahrnoff

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No one wished to speak.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion:

Committee members Bullock/Weber to approve the minutes of the special meeting of April 21, 2010.

Mr. Wilson recommended that the minutes include more detail.

Mr. Moldaver noted that the Committee voted to move away from detailed minutes.

Vote:

Voice vote 4/0.

**AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS**

Mr. Benson reported that the Creeks Division's Proposed Fiscal Year 2011 Budget was presented to City Council on May 10<sup>th</sup>; that the budget will be presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission on Wednesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>; and, that he expects the Parks and Recreation Commission to forward the Committee's budget recommendation on to City Council.

## **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mr. Wilson reported that the Watersheds Subcommittee met on May 6<sup>th</sup> to discuss the Plan Santa Barbara Draft Environmental Impact Report and proposed policy amendments; and, that Mr. Benson has composed a draft comment letter reflecting the Subcommittee's discussion for the Committee's review.

## **7. BUSINESS ITEMS**

### **a. "Plan Santa Barbara" General Plan Update**

#### Recommendation:

That the Committee discuss and finalize written comments on the Draft General Plan and Environmental Impact Report prepared as part of the "Plan Santa Barbara" General Plan update.

#### Documents:

Staff Report – May 2010

#### Speakers:

Cameron Benson, Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager

#### Committee Questions/Discussion:

Mr. Wilson noted that the Committee has two important alternatives to look into in the letter, as well as smaller items that were important to mention, such as not placing community gardens near creeks.

Committee members asked questions regarding the different DEIR alternatives; and, whether some of the language the Committee has recommended will not be included if a different alternative is chosen.

Mr. Benson reported that the language the Committee has recommended would be applicable no matter which alternative was chosen; and, that Open Space and Parks and Recreation items dealing directly with parks management should be reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Mr. Wilson asked whether the language in the Protect Contiguous Open Land (OP1.3) section of the DEIR should read "connected habitats" only, and leave out the word "types."

Mr. Moldaver agreed to leave the word "types" out of the recommended language.

Mr. Wilson suggested including the items the Committee is recommending in the cover letter.

Mr. Benson reported that John Ledbetter from the Planning Division recommended the Committee focus on the language, and use the DEIR to inform the comments.

Mr. Bullock noted the relevance of the supporting DEIR information.

Mr. Benson reported that the recommended deadlines included in the comment letter do not guarantee it will happen, but it help staff prioritize the work; and, that Mr. Wilson and Ms. Lohmus recommended an increase in the amount of trees planted.

Mr. Bullock suggested the letter specify whether it is a native tree.

Mr. Wilson noted that it is not appropriate to specify since this is in the climate section and not a water quality question.

Mr. Wilson recommended not changing the revisions the Subcommittee made.

Mr. Benson reported that there are specific trees listed along with a description, such as certain trunk sizes of the trees, and that they shall be protected; and, that at the Subcommittee meeting Ms. Lohmus recommended the language should require the City to hire a biologist to examine trees before pruning.

Mr. Wilson noted that minor hand pruning will not do any harm, but the problem is the major pruning done with a chain saw; and, expressed his concern that migratory birds may be harmed.

Committee members asked questions regarding bird nesting season.

Mr. Wilson reported that the bird nesting season takes place from March through June.

Mr. Benson reported that the Subcommittee recommended mirroring the oak woodlands with the riparian woodlands comments; and, that in the Multi-Use Plan for Coast section (ER13.2), Stearns Wharf was replaced with Laguna Channel.

Mr. Benson reported that the Subcommittee has made modifications to both of the Creek Setback Standard sections (ER16.1 and ER18), one change will happen now, and another will take place in the future; that Mission Creek is the only creek which currently has a setback ordinance, and the new standard would apply the ordinance to other creeks in the City; that the setback would be greater than 25 feet; and, that the

Comprehensive Creek Action Plan (ER16.2) will also put the Creeks Division on a 2 year implementation schedule.

Committee members asked questions regarding whether other surrounding jurisdictions have the same standards as the City of Santa Barbara.

Mr. Benson reported that he is not sure what other jurisdictions' standards are, and that it would have to be a community process.

Committee members asked questions regarding landscaping along creeks in the Creekside Development Guidelines (ER18.2), and whether it should read "within the creek setback" instead of "along the creeks."

Mr. Bullock noted that since it is under the Creek Setback and Restoration section, the language does not need to be changed.

Mr. Wilson suggested adding language to prohibit the use of non-native plants in creeks restoration projects.

Mr. Bullock encouraged including pedestrian paths in the letter, but questioned whether pathways would require fencing to keep people from causing bank erosion and falling into the creeks.

Mr. Benson reported that the City Council has expressed interest in creating more pedestrian paths; and, that including appropriate language could help reach a balance between access and safety.

Mr. Wilson noted that it is unfortunate that the community needs to worry about people falling into the creeks since children have played without fences before.

Mr. Benson reported that at the Subcommittee meeting Mr. Wilson suggested language in the Aesthetics and Visual Resources Policies section (ER25) to recognize the importance of scenic view protection for the public, and to help planners have this at the top of their mind; that at the request of the Creeks Division during the first Plan SB meeting, the creeks have now been added to the map; and, that the Creeks Division would like to suggest that the Los Positas Creek lines extend up onto the municipal golf course.

Mr. Benson noted that the next step for the Planning Commission will be to compose their responses to the comment letters.

Motion:

Committee members Bullock/Wilson to approve and forward the Committee's written comments on the Draft General Plan and Environmental Impact Report prepared as part of the "Plan Santa Barbara" General Plan Update to the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Planning Commission, and City Council.

Vote:

Unanimous voice vote

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion:

Committee members Wilson/Weber to adjourn.

Chair Moldaver adjourned the meeting at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cameron Benson  
Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager